GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1113
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2016
Iron Dust in Tea
Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of presence of iron dust contents beyond the prescribed limit/norms in the packaged tea and that sold loose;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken against the erring companies;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make stringent norms to prevent such adulteration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) to (d): Keeping in view the need to regulate the presence of iron dust in tea, the draft standards prescribing a limit of not more than 150 mg/kg of iron fillings in tea, has been approved by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). These standards were uploaded on the website of FSSAI i.e. fssai.gov.in on 04.12.2015. Thereafter, the enforcement officials in States and Union Territories have been instructed on 22.04.2016 to implement these standards till issuance of final notification. Since implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 primarily rests with the State/UT Governments, FSSAI through periodic written communications as also interactions during the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee of the Food Authority continues to emphasize the need for stricter enforcement of the law and the regulations. Random sampling and testing of food products, etc. is undertaken by officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of standards laid down under the FSS Act, 2006 and Regulations thereunder. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006.